

*The contention of the two famous Houses,*

*Enter Clifford,*

*Rut.* O Tutor, looke where bloody Clifford comes.

*Clif.* Chaplaine away, thy Priesthood saues thy life,  
As for the brat of that accursed Duke,  
Whose father slew my father, he shall dye.

*Tutor.* Oh Clifford, spare this tender Lord, least  
Heauen reuenge it on thy head: oh saue his life.

*Clif.* Soldiours away, and drag him hence perforce:  
Away with the villaine. *Exit Chaplaine.*  
How now, what dead already? or is it feare that  
Makes him close his eyes? Ile open them.

*Rut.* So lookes the pent vp Lion on the Lambe,  
And so he walkes insulting ore his prey,  
And so he turnes againe to rend his limbes in sunder,  
Oh Clifford, kill me with thy sword, and  
Not with such a cruell threatening looke,  
I am too meane a subiect for thy wrath,  
Be thou reuendge on men, and let me liue.

*Clif.* In vaine thou speakest poore boy: my fathers  
Blood hath stopt the passage where thy words should enter.

*Rut.* Then let my fathers blood ope it againe, he is a  
Man, and Clifford cope with him.

*Clif.* Had I thy brethren heere, their liues and thine  
Were not reuenge sufficient for me.  
Or should I dig vp thy fore-fathers graues,  
And hang their rotten Coffins vp in chaines,  
It could not slake mine ire, nor ease my heart,  
The sight of any of the house of *Yorke*,  
Is as a fury to torment my soule.  
Therefore till I roote out that cursed line,  
And leaue not one on earth, Ile liue in hell therefore.

*Rut.* Oh let me pray, before I take my death.  
To thee I pray: Sweet Clifford pittie me.

*Clif.* I, such pittie as my rapiers point affords.

*Rut.* I neuer did thee hurt, wherefore wilt thou kill me?

*Clif.* Thy father hath.

*Yorke and Lancaster.*

*Rut.* But 't was ere I was borne.  
Thou hast one sonne, for his sake pittie me,  
Least in reuenge thereof, sith God is iust,  
He be as miserably slaine as I.  
Oh, let me liue in prison all my daies,  
and when I giue occasion of offence,  
Then let me die, for now thou hast no cause.

*Clif.* No cause? Thy father slew my father, therefore die.  
*Plantagenet*, I come *Plantagenet*,  
And this thy sonnes blood cleauing to my blade,  
Shall rust vpon my weapon, till thy blood  
Congeald with his, do make me wipe off both. *Exit.*

*Alarmer, enter the Duke of Yorke solus.*

*Yorke.* Ah *Yorke*, poste to thy Castle, saue thy life,  
The goale is lost, thou house of Lancaster,  
Thrice happy chance is it for thee and thine,  
That heauen abridgde my daies, and cals me hence,  
But God knows what chance hath betide my sonnes:  
But this I know, they haue demead themselues,  
Like men borne to renowe by life or death:  
Three times this day came *Richard* to my fight,  
and cried courage, Father: victory or death.  
and twice so oft came *Edward* to my view,  
With purple Faulchion painted to the hilts,  
In blood of those whom he had slaughtered.  
Oh harke, I heare the drums. No way to flie?  
No way to saue my life? and heere I stay:  
And heere my life must end.

*Enter the Queene, Clifford, Northumberland,  
and Soldiours.*

Come bloudy Clifford, rough Northumberland,  
I dare your quenchlesse fury to more blood:  
This is the But, and this abides your shot.

*Northum.* Yeeld to our mercies, proud *Plantagenet*.

*Clif.* I, to such mercy as his ruthfull arme